BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 11-39* *September 30, 2011*

- **BC's population climbs to 4,573,321 at July 1st**
- **Food services and drinking places revenue inches ahead 0.4% in July**
- **Life expectancy at birth in BC reaches 81.4 years**

Population

- **As of July 1, British Columbia's population was estimated at 4,573,321, up nearly 1.0% from the same time in the previous year.** BC's population growth increased at a rate that was similar to the national average (+1.0%). However, PEI (+1.7%), Alberta (+1.6%), Saskatchewan (+1.3%), Manitoba (+1.3%) and Ontario (+1.1%) all posted stronger growth. Newfoundland and Labrador (-0.1%) was the only province where the population declined. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **During the second quarter, British Columbia's population increased by an estimated 12,281 persons (+0.3%).** This increase was largely driven by a substantial net inflow of international migrants (+9,525 persons). Natural increase, the number of births less the number of deaths, contributed a net increase of 3,502. However, more people migrated out of BC for other provinces (-15,685 persons) than arrived in BC from the rest of Canada (+14,939 persons).
Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The median age of the population of British Columbia at July 1 was 41.1 years, up 0.3 years from the previous year.** British Columbia is unique among the western provinces in having a population whose median age is higher than that of Canada (39.9 years). Atlantic Canada had the highest median age with Newfoundland and Labrador (43.8 years) having the oldest population in the country. Alberta's population was the youngest with a median age of 36.0 years.
Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **Lumber production at British Columbia's sawmills rose 3.3% in July compared to the same month in the previous year.** While the province's Coastal mills saw output slip (-3.2%), this was more than offset by an increase at Interior mills (+4.1%).

  Nationally, sawmill activity was up 1.9% in July, mainly due to increased production in BC. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Average weekly earnings for non-farm payroll employees in British Columbia fell 2.0% (seasonally adjusted) in July.** Nationally, average weekly earnings inched ahead 0.1% despite three provinces, BC (-2.0%), Alberta (-1.5%) and Quebec (-0.5%), reporting weaker earnings. Newfoundland and Labrador (+2.1%) and Saskatchewan (+1.9%) posted the largest increases.
Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **British Columbia's food service and drinking places industry recorded a slight (+0.4%; *seasonally adjusted*) gain in revenues in July.** Restaurants and other food service establishments registered a moderate increase in business (+0.5%), mitigated only slightly by a dip (-0.4%) in revenues earned at drinking establishments.

  At the national level, industry revenues were marginally lower (-0.1%) in July. Weaker revenues in Quebec (-0.8%) and Atlantic Canada (-0.6%) were the main reason for the overall decline. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Report **No report this issue**

Did you know...

Roughly half (49%) of British Columbians believe that drivers have become less courteous over the past five years. Only 3% thought courtesy had improved.

Data Source: Ipsos Canada

Health

- **Life expectancy at birth in British Columbia reached a new high of 81.4 years during the three-year period from 2006 to 2008, an increase of 0.2 years from 2005 to 2007.**[1] Life expectancy at birth in BC was the highest among the provinces. British Columbia (81.4 years), Ontario (81.3 years) and Quebec (81.0 years) were the only provinces where life expectancy was above the national average. The lowest life expectancy at birth was recorded in the Territories (75.2 years).

  For BC's seniors (aged 65 years and older), life expectancy edged higher to 20.5 years, slightly ahead of the national average (20.0 years). Life expectancy for senior citizens was highest in BC (20.5 years), Ontario (20.2 years) and Alberta (20.1 years).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **During the 2009/2010 fiscal year, there were 695 residential care facilities in British Columbia with 32,842 beds staffed and in operation.** Approximately 81% of these beds were in residences for the elderly, with another 17% in care facilities for persons with mental disorders. Other types of facilities (physical disabilities, transient housing, etc.) accounted for the remaining staffed beds.

  Private facilities provided the largest share (38%) of the total number of beds in operation in BC, followed by lay organizations (29%) and government (24%), with religious associations (9%) operating the remaining beds. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **On average, in 2004, Canadians consumed approximately 110.0 grams of sugar each day, accounting for roughly 21% of their total daily caloric intake.** While nearly a third (31%) of those sugar-based calories came from fruit & vegetable sources, an even higher percentage (35%) came from 'other' foods.

  Among children aged 1 to 8 years, milk was the largest source (20%) of total sugar intake. For those aged 9 to 18, soft drinks (14%) were the biggest contributor to total sugar intake. Fruit was the main source (17%) of sugar consumed by those aged 19 years and older.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **After seven straight quarterly increases, tourism spending in Canada fell slightly (-0.1%; *seasonally adjusted*) during the second quarter of 2011.**[2] While non-residents travelling within Canada spent more (+1.4%) than they did in the preceding quarter, expenditures by Canadian travellers slipped (-0.4%).

  Total spending on accommodation (+0.7%) and food & beverage (+0.7%) services were higher in the second quarter. However, this was offset by weaker expenditures on transportation services (-0.5%) and other tourism commodities (-0.4%), which together make up more than half all tourism spending.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canadian real gross domestic product (GDP) rose 0.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July, building on a 0.2% increase registered in the previous month.** Increased economic activity (+1.4%) in manufacturing drove much of the overall increase in GDP, with additional contributions from transportation & warehousing (+1.8%) and wholesale trade (+1.5%). However, retail trade (-0.7%), construction (-0.3%) and mining and oil & gas extraction (-0.3%) were all down compared to the previous month. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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[1] Life expectancy is the average number of years of life remaining either at birth or some other age.

[2] Tourism expenditures are expressed in real terms and therefore exclude price effects.

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,573.3	1.0
Canada	34,482.8	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jul 2011	3,121	0.7
Merchandise Exports - Jul 2011	2,725	-1.1
Retail Sales - Jul 2011	4,916	-0.5
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Aug 2011)		
BC	2.1	2.4
Vancouver	1.7	2.4
Victoria	1.9	2.1
Canada	3.1	2.7
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug 2011	
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-6.0	
Labour Force - BC	2,452.2	0.0
Employed - BC	2,268.1	-0.3
Unemployed - BC	184.1	2.7
		Jul 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.5	7.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.3	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Sep 28/2011	Sep 29/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.50	3.30
- 5 year	5.19	5.39
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Sep 28/2011	Sep 29/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0225	1.0300
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9684	0.9671
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug 2011	
BC	839.93	0.8
Canada	839.99	1.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

High Technology Reports

The 2010 editions of BC Stats' high technology reports are now available. The *Profile of the British Columbia High Technology Sector* measures the growth and performance of B.C.'s high technology sector. The key indicators examined include GDP, revenue, employment, wages and salaries, business counts and international trade. The *Input Indicators of the British Columbia High Technology Sector* report highlights conditions that affect B.C.'s high technology sector from a supply-side perspective. The indicators cover key aspects of the educational, business, government, external and labour sectors. For both these reports, the detailed tables are also available in Excel format.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp

BC Regional Population Projections

The British Columbia and PEOPLE36 (Population Extrapolation for Organizational Planning with Less Error) regional population projections are now available. This latest population projection covers the period 2011 to 2036, with information available for numerous provincial geographies including Local Health Area, Health Service Delivery Area, Health Authority, School Districts, Regional District and Development Region. Access the release article British Columbia 2036, which provides some PEOPLE 36 highlights, or view projection details on our website.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/popproj.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators (data tables)

Next week

- Business Indicators, September 2011
- Labour Force Statistics, September 2011
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Sept. 2011

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